

*18 X*  
(Amended) Isolated and purified monoclonal [Monoclonal] antibodies or  
their Fv, Fab, F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments, according to claim 16, which are capable of recognizing  
*T. equigenitalis* proteins selected from the group consisting of *T. equigenitalis* proteins of  
150 kDa, 120 kDa, 52.7 kDa and 22 (LPS) kDa.

*Sub B2*  
*19*  
18. (Amended) Isolated and purified monoclonal [Monoclonal] antibodies,  
which can be obtained from hybridomas [hybrids] by a method comprising:

*C5*  
*and*  
fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice  
immunized against [by means of] an inactivated strain of the species *T. equigenitalis* or  
extract(s) of such a strain,

cloning and selecting according to the capacity of the monoclonal antibodies  
contained in their culture supernatant to recognize an epitope or epitopes of a bacterium of  
the species *T. equigenitalis*, and to not exhibit a crossed reaction with an epitope or  
epitopes selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different  
*Taylorella* species or epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*,

recovering the required monoclonal antibodies, and  
optionally purifying said monoclonal antibodies.

*14*      *22*  
*17*      *21*  
*Sub E3*  
(Amended) A method of obtaining monoclonal antibodies according to claim  
16, comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice immunized against [by means of] a strain of the species *T. equigenitalis* or extract(s) from such a strain,

*Su* *E3*  
*C4* *Contd*  
*21* *23* *22*

screening hybridomas whose culture supernatants contain a monoclonal antibody that exhibits [exhibit] a positive reaction with a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis* or a fragment thereof, without exhibiting a crossed reaction with an epitope selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different *Taylorella* species, and epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*.

selecting by cloning the hybridomas with respect to their reactivity, in relation to *T. equigenitalis*,

recovering the monoclonal antibodies, and  
optionally purifying said monoclonal antibodies.

*21* *23* *22*  
*20*

(Amended) A method of obtaining monoclonal antibodies according to claim 20, comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells from mice immunized against [by means of] monoclonal antibodies or their Fv, Fab, and F(ab')2 fragments, which recognize an epitope of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*, and which do not exhibit a crossed reaction with an epitope or epitopes selected from the group consisting of epitopes of a bacterium of a different *Taylorella* species, and epitopes of a bacterium whose genus is different from *Taylorella*,

screening hybridomas whose culture supernatants contain a monoclonal antibody that exhibits [exhibit] a positive reaction with one of the said monoclonal antibodies or their fragments,  
selecting by cloning the hybridomas, and  
recovering the required anti-antibodies.

~~30~~ <sup>329.</sup> (Amended) Kits for application of a method of identification of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis* in a specimen or in a culture, which include:

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody or fragment according to claim 16, [an immunogenic protein and a monoclonal anti-antibody or Fv, Fab, and F(ab')2 fragment thereof, wherein said protein and anti- antibody or fragment thereof are capable of interacting with said monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof,]

reagents, for carrying out the intended immunologic reaction,  
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody reactions, and  
instructions for use.

~~34.~~ <sup>35.</sup> (Amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein the non antigen- antibody reaction is blocked by saturation of the collected specimen through incubation with [obtained by means of] a serum [from] which does not contain anti-*T. equigenitalis* antibodies [have been removed].